



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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For Immediate Release

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Landscapes Focus on Earth And Sky At Riverbend

Impressionist landscape artist Lawrence Altaffer's work will be featured at Riverbend Park Visitor's Center in Great Falls, VA beginning in April and continuing through May. The exhibit, "Earth and Sky Into Art" features a select group of oil landscapes which celebrate the aesthetic play of light and color through widespread locales. The exhibition is sponsored by the Friends of Riverbend Park.

The park, a Fairfax County Park Authority facility, is located on the shores of the Potomac River and presents a perfect location for the appreciation of art as well as nature. On Sunday, April 2, 2006 from 1 to 3 p.m. an opening reception will be held. The artist will be in attendance and refreshments will be served. The park's address is 8700 Potomac Street, Great Falls, VA.

Artist Altaffer works primarily in oils, but also in pastels and watercolor. He paints en plein air on site and also produces larger paintings in his studio. After a successful career as a urologic surgeon, he retired early and began painting in 1997. Having studied the history of French and American impressionism for more than 35 years, his work reflects the influence of these two schools. He is primarily self-taught, but has received instruction in painting at the Corcoran School of Art and The Art League.

In May 2000 his painting, "Show Time - Palisades Lake", was chosen for the annual exhibition of The Oil Painters of America. In June of 2001 his painting "Old Rag Mountain" was selected in the Arts For The Parks competition, the largest and most prestigious landscape competition in America. His painting "Taggart Lake" was selected in the juried competition for the 2002 Oil Painters of America exhibition held in Chicago and in that same year his painting "Morning On The Potomac" was one of 90 works of art selected from more than a thousand entries for the annual non-members exhibition of the prestigious Salmagundi Club in New York City.

Altaffer is an elected member of the Washington Society of Landscape Painters. This is one of the oldest plein air painting groups in the United States and membership is limited to a maximum of forty painters from Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. His paintings are included in many private collections in the United States and abroad and in the corporate collections of the headquarters of McGraw Hill Publishers in New York City; Media General, the parent company of the Richmond Times Dispatch, in Richmond, Virginia; and Galen Capital Group in McLean, Virginia.

The artist spends part of each winter painting in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico and the remainder of the year in Virginia where he enjoys painting along the Blue Ridge Mountains and the tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay. His studio is located in his home, Doubleview, which is an eighteenth century log home near Syria, Virginia on the eastern slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

For information about the show or directions to the park call 703-759-9018. *Media Note: For an electronic version of his work go online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/press/photos.*

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